THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per information provided by CBSE, there is no weightage for attendance in the examinations. However, to appear in the Board's Class X and XII examinations, the students need to have at least 75% of attendance. The Board has also revised and strengthened the internal assessment scheme in Classes IX and X in order to bring about holistic improvement in assessment.

CBSE has also introduced internal evaluation in Social Science from Class IX in 2004-05 and in Class X in 2005-06. Similarly internal evaluation for 20 marks in the subject of Mathematics has also been introduced from Class IX in 2005-06.

These norms are implemented in all the schools affiliated to CBSE all over the country and abroad.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has also issued regulations in 2003 on the minimum standard of instruction for the grant of first degree. As per the regulations there shall be continuous sessional evaluation in each course in addition to trimester/semester/year end examinations and the weightage for sessional evaluation and examination in respect of each course shall be duly prescribed.

Further, the minimum number of lectures, practicals, tutorials and seminars which a student shall be required to attend for eligibility to appear at the examination shall be prescribed by the University which shall ordinarily not be less than 75% of the total number of lectures, practicals, tutorials, seminars and any other prescribed requirements.

Agreement with foreign countries for higher education

1368. SHRI N.R GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any agreement with foreign countries in the field of higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.K. has proposed to extend financial help to improve the quality of higher education in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of educational institutions selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has signed Education Exchange Programmes (EEPs)/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 20 countries in the Education sector. These EEPs/MOUs also incorporate collaboration in the area of Higher Education. The list of the countries is enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The UK Government had announced that it had earmarked £ 10 million over a period of five years starting with financial year 2006-07 for the Education Plan announced by the Prime Minister of U.K. in September, 2005. The main aim would be to strengthen existing links in the education sector and to build sustainable academic linkages between India and U.K.

Statement

Agreement with foreign countries for higher education

List of foreign countries with which EEPs/MOU have been signed—

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	EEP/MOU signed on
1.	Mongolia	9.7.2002 (EEP)
2.	Armenia	3.10.2002 (EEP)
3.	Tanzania	27.4.2003 (EEP)
4.	China	23.6.2003 (EEP)
5.	Guyana	25.8.2003 (EEP)
6.	Israel	9.9.2003 (EEP)
7.	Australia	23.10.2003 (EEP)
8.	Myanmar	2.11.2003 (MOU)
9.	Hungary	3.11.2003 (EEP)
10.	Syria	15.11.2003 (EEP)
11.	Uzbekistan	5.4.2005 (EEP)
12.	New Zealand	19.4.2005 (EEP)
13.	Thailand	3.6.2005 (MOU)
14.	Sri Lanka	10.6.2005 (EEP)
15.	Mexico	21.10.2005 (EEP)
16.	Brazil	1.2.2006 (EEP)
17.	Afghanistan	10.4.2006 (MOU)
18.	Croatia	19.4.2006 (EEP)
19.	Ecuador	18.7.2006 (EEP)
20.	Rwanda	25.7.2006 (EEP)